

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Scientific Department publishes an article of varied information interesting to the body of the planting community. We are still convinced that the use of Dynamite or some allied explosive will become general in opening up new land, and still more convinced that cartridges of lesser power will be used in cultivated land to improve the growing plants. Planters must not expect an upheaval of the soil, like a waterspout, but the ground below will be well fissured. Planters may jib at first at the cost, but they must remember that the effect is lasting, thus reducing the cost materially.

The Labour Problem has produced two letters from Mr. Danvers and C. J. H., of interest at this juncture. We trust that Mr. Danvers will not lay up his pen, as he foreshadows, but continue to instruct us from his long experience. His example, we hope, will be followed by others. We welcome C. J. H. as a new contributor to our columns, though the note he strikes is somewhat at variance with that struck by Mr. Danvers and Kithogur. Half annas will leave but little attraction for coolies who have become accustomed to the voice of the charmer.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Bainbridge Fletcher, Government Entomologist, for two interesting papers. The extracts he has kindly given us from the Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia are of great value, coming so soon after the discussion at the annual meeting. The Secretary was instructed to inquire as to the possibility of Australia as a market for Indian coffee.

The other paper that the Government Entomologist contributes, which is on the Coffee Borer, will be of the greatest interest to all coffee planters, and its value is greatly enhanced by the illustration that accompanies it, from a block very kindly lent by Mr. Bainbridge Fletcher, to whom we return our most sincere thanks, and, like Oliver Twist, "ask for more."

The Annamalai Planters' Association Proceedings are printed.

THE SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U.P.A.S.I.

Use of Dynamite in Agriculture.—At a Meeting of the Committee of Agricultural Experiments held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon on 10th July, Mr. Doolan, the Representative of Nobel's Explosives Company, Hamburg was present and he estimated the cost of blasting with Nobel's Hamburg Dynamite No. 1 as follows:—One case containing 200 cartridges $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter Rs.24, or 12 cents per cartridge; detonators Rs.19'30 per 1000, or 2 cents each; fuse about 1 cent per foot there being 24 feet to a coil.

Using for a two foot hole:—

Half a cartridge	...	...	6 cents.
One detonator	...	...	2 "
2 feet of fuse	...	...	2 "

10 cents per hole.

Two coolies can put down 25 holes per hour, or 175 holes in a day of 7 hours, labour cost per each cooly 35 cents; 70 cents for two coolies; and two other coolies expert in making primers, charging holes and firing same at 50 cents each per day, Re.1, bringing the total cost of labour to Rs.1'70 per day, equal to 1 cent per hole. The total cost of dynamite, detonators, fuse, and labour is thus 11 cents per hole.

According to this estimate if the holes are put down 12 feet by 12 feet, as advised in articles on the subject, there will be 302 per acre, and the cost of the operation figures out at Rs.33'22 per acre.

From our experience at the trial made at the Lal Bagh Gardens, Bangalore, during the Annual Meeting of the U.P.A.S.I. the effect of even a whole cartridge leaves little to be seen. There is a dull heavy explosion which shakes the ground, a little dust is blown out of the top of the hole and a few cracks are seen on the surface. It is difficult to see what the effect below ground has been even on opening out a hole and presumably the benefit can only be discovered by watching the effect upon the plants over a period of years. Mr. Krumbeigel, the Mysore Economic Botanist, is kindly going to plant Ceará Rubber plants 6 x 6 over the area operated on at the Lal Bagh and compare their rate of growth with similar plants put down in the immediate neighbourhood of the blasted area. It must be remembered that the soil is a hard laterite,

The Scientific Assistant for Mysore who carried out the demonstration at the Lal Bagh hopes to try the effect of dynamite on soils with a hard pan in Mysore more especially with the object of testing the effect upon Black Rot. It is suggested that blasting may improve the drainage, and so diminish the attacks of this fungus during the monsoon. It would appear, however, that whatever the effect the process is a fairly expensive one at Rs.33 per acre.

The Diplomatic and Consular Report for 1912 on Angola, a Portuguese colony on the West Coast of Africa just south of the Congo, states that the Brazilian valorisation scheme has considerably benefited the coffee estates in the districts of Cazengo and Galungo. The bulk of the coffee exported from Angola is gathered from wild trees that are found extensively in the mountainous forest regions at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. The large estates continue to experience the want of labour for picking; in fact the greater part of this year's crop would have been lost had not the Govern-

ment temporarily furnished some hundreds of natives from the neighbouring districts for that purpose. New varieties and hybrid coffee imported from Brazil and Java have not done as well as was expected, proving less resistant to the ruling climatic conditions. The yield is small, but superior in quality: it is all consumed in the province.

The bulk of the Rubber for export depends entirely upon the amount gathered by natives in the interior; scarcity of food, drought, and tribal disturbances being the chief factors in the irregularity of supply. The total yield from the *Manicoba* quality, of which there exist some small plantations in the district of Loanda, has not been considerably augmented during 1912, owing to the labour difficulties ruling. No skilled labour exists for extracting rubber, the unskilled natives being too costly and unreliable to be taught more than the primitive task of weeding during the short terms for which they can be contracted. Rubber washing machinery of modern pattern has been erected on two or three estates where *Manicoba*, *Hevea*, and *Funtumia* are grown. Recently a French Firm set up several sets of rubber-cleaning machinery of the "Valour" type, which, however, only treat root rubber after it has been gathered and coagulated by the natives.

Ceylon.—The following figures from the *Ceylon Blue Book* for 1911-1912 may prove of interest to Southern India planters. The total area of the Island, is 25,331½ square miles and the total population 4,106,350. In 1911, 1,359 acres were planted with Coffee, 457,277 acres with Tea, and 184,551 acres with Rubber.

There are 7,592 Europeans in the Island and of Indian Tamils 301,400 men and 229,583 women.

The following figures for the average yield per acre of Tea are of interest:—

				Tea,
Colombo ..	...	...	...	1,400 lbs.
Kalutara ...	...	...	...	351 ..
Kandy ...	...	...	...	464 ..
Nuwara Eliya...	...	...	200 to 250 ..	
Galle ...	...	...	...	619 ..
Badulla ...	...	...	...	497 ..
Ratnapura ...	...	...	...	573 ..
Kegalla ...	...	...	...	1,000 ..

A Note on the Production of Tea in India in 1912, prepared in the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, has recently come to hand. From this it appears that there was a total of 58,556 acres under Tea in Southern India in 1912 out of a grand total of 591,833 acres for all India. The total production is put at 295,870,296 lbs. for all India excluding Burma, and the average yield per acre was 544.7 lbs., in 1912 as compared with 503.8 lbs. in 1911. Exports by sea increased by over 17½ million pounds during the year. The number of persons employed in the industry in 1912 is returned at 547,545 permanently employed and 95,509 temporarily employed, while the capital of joint stock companies engaged in the production of tea amounts to Rs.26¼ crores, or over £17.5 millions. The average price realised in 1912-13 was 8.65d. per lb. as compared with 9.01d. per lb. in 1911-12.

K. D. A.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE EDITOR,

*The Planters' Chronicle.***The Labour Problem.**

Sir,—I do not think that Mr. Martin does either himself or his hearers justice when he wrote (in your issue of 6th instant) that his efforts have been scoffed at as mere attempts to be funny. No one who has heard his speeches can have failed to be struck by the knowledge and ability displayed in them, and I am sure that all were very grateful for the humour which played about them and enlivened a somewhat dull subject. I can scarcely be said to be a convert to his views, having always failed to see how legislation can touch the real root of our trouble and though I have freely given admiration to the really stupendous efforts of some delegates, was never able to accord my support to their schemes, believing, with Mr. Martin, that these admirable efforts were in the wrong direction, and calculated to worry rather than attract labour. Even at this distant time I still gasp with admiration at the ability and labour involved in the production of one particular scheme; but notwithstanding my admiration for the qualities displayed, I was unable to support the bill.

What made me write at all was an apprehension that delegates were again going to waste their energies in discussing a fruitless theme—the indications pointed that way; and I hoped that some might agree with me, and stay their hands. I am glad to see that those apprehensions were wrong, and that a much more useful line was taken.

"Kilhogue" is kind enough to approve of what I wrote, but says that I made no suggestion as to how we might meet the difficulty of the situation. I thought I had made a rather large and drastic suggestion, when I wrote that pay should be raised all round in order to get level with our rivals. That is what my remarks amounted to, I think; but rates must be settled by each district for itself. His idea of curtailing extensions would be a good one if there were the slightest probability of its being agreed to; but to make such a step effective Malaya and Ceylon must fall into line, and how are we to arrange this? And I feel sure that even South Indian Companies would only snort scornfully at the suggestion! The private proprietor is nowhere in such matters; and I may be doing them injustice, but it seems to me that companies think only of themselves, and "hang every one else." In Brazil we have an example of how such a suggestion is treated even after it becomes law. They seem there to have extended just as much as they wanted to, notwithstanding the Majestic Prohibition of it by the Legislature.

Mr. Martin says that once I did not like legislation because I was afraid of it—that is true, and it was in connection with Act I. I still dislike Act I intensely, notwithstanding the fact that when asked to propose its modified adoption at a North Mysore Association Meeting, I did so. We have passed a resolution to adopt the Act after it is modified to suit local conditions in consultation with the Government of Mysore, *who approached us on the subject.*

There are two or three reasons why North Mysore has had to change its attitude towards Act I, and some may be interested to know them.

One is, that the circumstances I foreshadowed 4 years ago at the U. P. A. meeting have come about, and we find that owing to our labour bolting with advances to other districts, we need extradition—and extradition appears to be hopeless of attainment without Act I. *With* extradition I personally shall still dislike the Act, as 50% of its good will be dissipated by Police short comings—*without* extradition it would be loathsome, and we want none of it. *But*, and here is another reason, the cloud, the size of a man's hand is now the size of a Government hand, and before long it is probable that the various Governments will make Act I the law of their lands, and cease leaving it to us to take or leave. So, we hope to get local modifications considered before the thing is sprung on us, willy nilly. That it is coming, I have no doubt whatever.

Three years ago, when proposing that an effort should be made to tap new sources of labour, I prophesied that owing to the awakening of the people of this country to the advantages of industrial pursuits other than agriculture; mines, manufactures, and miscellaneous industries would be our chief competitors for labour in the future. This has begun already to pinch one of our districts, and possibly more; for the fishing industry has, under the fostering care of Sir F. Nicholson, taken a good many coolies who used to come to Coffee. I shall not be surprised if "Kithogue's" forecast of the possible doubling of wages in the near future prove true, and even then we shall not find ourselves with more labour than we want.

Yours faithfully,

C. DANVERS.

The EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Bangalore.

Mysore Labour Problem.

Dear Sir,—I have no wish to pour cold water on the Labour Commission Scheme but I have doubts as to the success of it as regards Mysore unless we first make up our minds to face what I consider absolutely essential, and that is an increase of pay owing to increased competition and higher cost of living, chiefly due to export of grain.

Our source of labour is close at hand compared with many other Planting Districts, but we are losing our labour owing to better inducements elsewhere, owing to our proximity to the labour recruiting area. I myself believe that we can induce the labour to come our way by a very slight increase of pay. Many planters when referring to an increase deal only with annas, leasder to deal with in the Check Roll. I say let us start with the half anna. And now I come to what I consider a most important point, namely, that the employer and coolie should both benefit by the increase. When we decide to increase the pay let the increase only apply to coolies who do so many days work in the month. I would suggest 24 days for men and 22 days for women. I believe there is ample labour for us all but because the coolie refuses to work regularly the employers have to advance for 25% more coolies than they actually require to allow for that number or more sitting in. I believe if all the Planting Community throughout Southern India combined to work on this proposal we should in time induce the coolies to work more regularly, and eventually be able to work our estates with less coolies and therefore less advances.

C. J. H.

Office of the Government Entomologist,
Agricultural College and Research Institute
Coimbatore, dated 6th September, 1913.

Dear Sir,—I have tried to find out what I can about Coffee in Australia. The latest information we have here is contained in the "Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia. Statistics for period 1901-1909, No. 3, 1910."

There is nothing here about Import Duties on particular goods, but Raw Coffee and Tea are apparently both subject to non preferential Customs Duty. They have preferential rates in the Commonwealth but such apparently only apply to imports from the United Kingdom, although a preference is also given to certain products of the South African Union.

The following information regarding imports into Australia during 1908 (the latest year for which we have information) may be of interest to you, as you will see that there is a certain demand for Coffee already to the value of over three lakhs of rupees :—

"Principal Imports from British Possessions in 1908 :—

(iii) Ceylon.—Coffee and Chicory, £2,143; Teas £643,151. The large increase in the imports from Ceylon from £124,057 during the years 1887-91, to £681,950 in 1908 is due to the displacement of China teas in the Australian markets by those of India and Ceylon. Of the total imports of tea during the year 1908, 66.12 per cent. was the produce of Ceylon.

(v) India.—Coffee and Chicory, £22,413; Tea, £216,345."

"Principal Imports the Produce of Foreign Countries :—

(iv) China.—Tea, £87,993.

The decline of the value of imports from China during the last twenty years is due to the loss of the tea trade, which now draws its supplies mainly from India and Ceylon.

(ix) Java. Tea, £21,443."

As regards the production of Coffee in Australia itself, the following extract is of some interest :—

"Coffee.—Queensland is the only State of the Commonwealth in which coffee-growing has been at all extensively tried, and here the results have up to the present time been far from satisfactory. The total area devoted to this crop reached its highest point in the season 1901-02, when an area of 547 acres was recorded. Since then the area continuously declined to 1906-07, when it was as low as 236 acres. During the season 1907-08 an improvement occurred and the total was 304 acres, succeeded by a fall to 285 acres in 1908-09 with a yield of 116,293 lbs. valued at £4,361." The small area suitable for Coffee-culture and the difficulties of getting labour for picking seem to prohibit Australia from any large share in Coffee-growing, so that the possibility of an Australian market for Indian Coffee would seem worth further investigation.

Yours truly,

T. RAINBRIDGE FLETCHER,

Govt. Entomologist.

THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL MEETING AT SIMLA.**The Insect Pests Bill.**

Sir Edward Maclagan, introducing the Insect Pests Bill, said :—

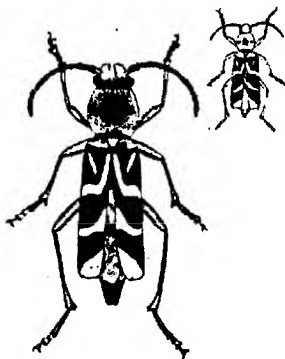
The Government was addressed some years ago by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, who pointed out that most other countries had protected themselves by somewhat stringent measures from the damage done to agriculture and gardening by the introduction of destructive insects and other pests. They urged upon us that with the increase of communications, the time had then come when similar precautions should be taken in India. On receipt of this representation, we consulted our experts and ascertained that in several cases disease had already been introduced along with imported material, and that there were many destructive diseases in other countries which were likely to be introduced into India if no restrictions were imposed. We further ascertained from the Customs authorities that a considerable number of packages containing fruit, bulbs, roots, seeds and plants were regularly imported into India, and it seemed clear that if steps were not taken to control such importations, considerable loss might be occasioned to agriculture and fruit culture of this country. Our next step was to consult the various local Governments and through them to obtain the opinions of several Chambers of Commerce, Superintendents of Botanical Gardens and other botanical experts, fruit growers, tea and coffee growers, and planters' associations. These opinions upon receipt were laid before a Committee of Experts, who then submitted definite proposals for dealing with the question. We had originally proposed to impose the necessary restrictions by a notification under the Sea Customs Act of 1878, but we found that the terms of that Act did not adequately cover the case with which we had to deal. We decided, therefore, to resort to special legislation, and the present Bill has been accordingly prepared, under which the Government is armed with the powers necessary for the purpose. After preparing this Bill we ascertained that a Conference was to meet in Rome in April, 1913, to discuss this very subject. We, thereupon, nominated one of our officers to attend the Conference and took no further action with regard to the Bill pending the receipt of the recommendations of the Conference, but as the Conference was afterwards indefinitely postponed, it was decided to proceed with the Bill as it stood.

The provisions of the Bill are based partly on the corresponding English Acts of 1877 and 1908, and partly on the Indian Livestock Inspection Act of 1898. They give the Government power to regulate, or, when necessary, prohibit the import of specified articles, which cannot be unreservedly introduced into the country without entailing a likelihood of danger to crops and gardens. This power, I need hardly say, will be used with discretion and applied only to a case where its exclusion is considered to be really necessary. In some cases, we should probably require a certificate from the country of exportation, that certain diseases are not prevalent in that country, or in the neighbourhood where the crop was grown, as the case may be, and in others we shall need a licence by the Agricultural Department in this country, which would be given on satisfactory evidence as to the reliable character of the merchants from whom the stock was received. In another class of cases, it will be necessary to go further, importation being confined to certain ports and arrangements being made for subjecting the suspected article to fumigation. Our object is to deal with them effectively, so as to save the Indian agricultural and fruit-rearing industries as far as possible from the more serious charges of loss to which they are exposed from the present system of unrestricted importation.—*The Daily Post*.

COFFEE.**Note on Coffee-Borer.**

BY THE GOVERNMENT ENTOMOLOGIST.

Xylotrechus quadripes is sufficiently well-known in most Coffee Districts in the larval state as the "Borer" or "White Borer" of Coffee and I must confess that I was considerably surprised to find that several experienced Coffee planters were quite ignorant of its appearance in the adult state as a beetle. It may therefore be as well to take the opportunity to figure the beetle in the "*Chronicle*," so that all Coffee-planters may be able to recognise it when met with, as it is obviously better to catch and kill the beetle before it has had a chance of laying its eggs than to wait for the damage to be done by the resulting larvae and then have to cut these out. On many estates it is the regular practice to have these beetles collected by hand and killed at the time of year (usually about March and October) that the adult beetles occur. They are generally found low down on the stem of the bush, about ground-level, where the eggs are laid as a rule.



The smaller figure shows the life-size of the beetle, the larger one shows the markings and structure in greater detail. The wing-cases are slightly opened showing the wings and body underneath; they may of course be closed so as to meet one another across the back, in which case the white cross-bars are continuous.

If some of those Coffee-Planters who have been successful in their control of the Borer would give their practical experiences in the *Chronicle* it would probably be of considerable interest to all readers.

T. BAINBRIGGE FLETCHER,
Govt. Entomologist.

Coffee Statistics.

The following information is extracted from the *Diplomatic and Consular Report* for 1912. The Coffee exported from Costa Rica during 1911-12 amounted to 196,211 bags of which 50.26% were shipped in husk. The export was 10,398 bags less than that of the previous year. The 1912-13 crop has turned out to be about equal to that of 1911-12. It was very good on the Atlantic slope and medium to poor over the rest of the country.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE COFFEE CROP OF 1911-12.

				Quantity.	Total.	Percentage by Bags.
				Bags.	Bags.	
United Kingdom and Colonies—						
In husk	...	...	...	81,278		
Cleaned	...	...	...	73,422	154,700	78.84
United States—						
In husk	...	...	...	720		
Cleaned	...	...	...	10,415	11,135	5.70
Germany—						
In husk	...	...	...	15,785		
Cleaned	...	...	...	8,008	23,793	12.11
France—						
Cleaned	...	...	...	5,580	5,580	2.84
Other Countries—						
In husk	...	...	...	845		
Cleaned	...	...	...	168	1,003	0.51
Total—						
In husk	...	...	...	98,618		
Cleaned	...	...	...	97,593	196,211	100

In 1911-12 exports of Coffee from Venezuela amounted to 55,697 metric tons against 37,153 metric tons in 1910-11 (1 metric ton =) scarcely any Venezuela coffee is sent to the United Kingdom, the greater part going to the United States, France and Germany.

Articles.	Country.	Quantity.	Value.
Coffee—United States ...	... M. tons ...	18,767	£. 1,064,600
France ...	... " ...	16,976	905,260
Germany ...	... " ...	11,209	664,830
Spain ...	... " ...	4,377	249,520
Netherlands & Colonies ...	... " ...	1,387	84,660
Austria Hungary ...	... " ...	1,462	77,540
Italy ...	... " ...	796	41,310
Belgium ...	... " ...	286	15,410
Cuba ...	... " ...	157	7,700
United Kingdom & Colonies ...	... " ...	76	4,570
Panama ...	... " ...	3	170
Total ...	... " ...	55,667	3,115,620

Coffee is the most important product of Western Abyssinia. It mostly grows wild and immense forests of it exist unutilised in the provinces of Gama and Kaffa, whence the name of Coffee, Arabs having exported the berries of the tree calling it the tree of Kaffa. The quantity picked is utterly incommensurate with that grown, but more ground is cleared every year. Nearly all this coffee is sent to, and consumed at, Khartoum; in quality it is far superior to the Brazilian. It is interesting to note that Abyssinia Coffee is now being exported through Gambela and the Sudan to Egypt, coffee to the value of £4,524 having been exported in the first nine months of 1912. Plantations of Coffee should be made on the plateau near Gambela itself to make a really big and profitable trade. There is sufficient water for irrigation, and coffee of a superior quality could be grown. The climate is also good. It might be worth while for an expert in coffee to come up by the first steamer to Gambela in June and see the prospects. Hawaii coffee is mixed with Mocha at Aden and sold as long berry mocha.

RUBBER.

Manihot and Hevea.

Manihot et Hevea—*Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, Year 13, No. 139, pp. 7-10. Paris, January 31, 1913.

In an article signed F. V. (1) the question of the advisability of cultivating *Manihot* and *Hevea* side by side was raised and answered affirmatively. Further, as M. Girard, who has practised this mixed cultivation in Cochinchina since 1910, using *M. dichotoma* and *plianhyensis*, asked for information respecting the best methods of tapping, for only by means of applying tapping methods entirely satisfactory to himself, would he be able to give, in his turn, interesting information on the mixed cultivation of *Manihot* and *Hevea* in Cochinchina and on the results of his experiments in incising *Manihot* trees. It was thus useful to add to the information which M. F. V. was able to furnish on this subject the data collected by M. V. Cayla in the course of a visit to the Brazilian plantations of various species of *Manihot*.

The following method is advocated by M. F. V. as the result of his practical experience on the Congo.

1. The thick bark of the trees should be removed in order to obtain a smooth clean surface.
2. The trees should be divided into 4 sectors and the incisions made in the form of half a fish-bone to a height of 6 feet 6 inches from the foot of the tree and 6 inches apart.
3. One sector must be incised per day and the next day the scrap should be removed, the incisions being sprayed with Bordeaux mixture. As soon as the cuts have cicatrised, the process is repeated, the new incisions being made below the former ones.
4. The best time for tapping is before 8 a.m. but it can be continued during the day in the case of trunks in the shade.
5. An ordinary implement is used, care being especially taken to avoid injuring the cambium.
6. No tree should be tapped till it is 4 years old.
7. The latex should be allowed to coagulate without being disturbed, and preferably in the form of "crepe".

M. V. Cayla states that in Brazil in the State of Rio Janeiro, it is necessary to remove the thick bark from *Ceara* trees (*Manihot Glaziovii*) of from 7 to 8 years of age, or more, in order to make clean-cut fish-bone incisions. In the case of the other species of *Manihot*, a rapid and slight scraping with the cutting knife is all that is requisite.

M. Glaziovii is tapped with a "machadinho" (1) according to the method of the "seringueiros", but *M. plianhyensis* ("pianhy") and *M. dichotoma* ("jeque") are treated in a still rougher manner; while the latex from *M. Glaziovii* is collected in receptacles ("tigelinhas") suspended from the trees below the incisions, that from *M. dichotoma* flows into a vessel at the foot of the tree, while the latex exuding from *M. plianhyensis* flows into a hole dug in the ground.

The fish-bone incision is not practised in Brazil, where it would not be economical in the case of *Ceara* on account of the peculiar nature of the bark of this tree.

But the diameter and height of the *Manihot* trees depend on cultural methods, which seem to be completely ignored in the State of Bahia, where the want of care taken does not permit of stating with accuracy the height

to which incisions can be made. The trees are tapped as high as possible; small incisions can be made in nearly half the circumference of the trunk of *M. dichotoma* without causing any injury to the tree.

As for the age, it is better not to begin tapping too early. Nevertheless, *M. planiheyensis* is often tapped when 2 years, or even 18 months old and the dead tree is replaced by a fresh productive tree grown in 6 months by filling up the gaps with slips.

The rubber from the Brazilian species of *Manihot* coagulates of its own accord: its quality is good and it fetches a high price. It is, however, deficient in purity, but this might be remedied by filtering the latex before coagulation, pressing and drying the coagulum with care.

(*Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and of Plant Diseases*), April 1913.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Anama'ai Planters' Association.

The Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee held at the Monica Bungalow at 10 a.m., on Sunday 10th August, 1913.

PRESENT.—Mr. G. L. Duncan (Chairman), the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Messrs. C. R. T. Congreve, E. W. Simcock and J. Hatton Robinson (Honorary Secretary).

AGENDA.

1. To consider reply to the District Magistrate—as to whether the Madras Planters' Labour Act of 1903 should be extended to this District.

2. To decide what policy the Association should adopt regarding the proposed extension of Government Cinchona plantation in the District.

3. Telegraphic communication to the District; and postal affairs.

4. Public Bazaar for District.

(1) The Meeting was not unanimous on the subject. The Honorary Secretary was requested to reply to the District Magistrate and ask that the subject might again be referred to a General Meeting.

(2) The Meeting was strongly opposed to the extension of Cinchona Plantations in the District. The Planters in the district were prepared to plant up Cinchona at the request of Government. A Minimum unit should be fixed.

(3) In reply to the Revenue Divisional Officer's letter C No. 451 Supr. of 1913 dated 27-7-13.—The Association did not now consider that the Telegraph line extended only to Malayandipatnam would help the district much—and would rather guarantee for the extension of the Telegraph line up to Valparai—and suggested that the same be carried up the Ghaut on the "Tree to tree" system.

The Hon'ble Mr. Barber was requested to very kindly interview the Postmaster-General about the Valparai Post Office.

(4) It was unanimously agreed that 50 acres of the Block of land known as K 2 be cleared for a Public Bazaar, and that an application be sent in to Government for permission to do so.

It was also agreed upon that the Buildings erected on the above Public Bazaar site be built out of Association Funds.

(Signed) J. HATTON ROBINSON.

Honorary Secretary.